

## KNOWING THE ETERNAL FATHER (PART 1)

*(Father's Day Message 1 September 2019)*

*God didn't get the idea of Fatherhood from man. He didn't look down from heaven and see a father playing with his kids and say, 'Wow, that's a great idea ... I'm gonna become a father also.'*

*No ... God was always a father and Fatherhood is a concept that came from who He is.*

*Jesus was always the Son of God in eternity before time was.*

*Today, the best father is only a fading facsimile of God, the perfect and Eternal Father.*

**GOD WAS THE FATHER OF ALL CREATION ... THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND.**

*The world wasn't created by a magician-god, who zapped things with His fingers of power and spoke incantations to make something out of nothing.*

**SLIDE** NO! ALL CREATION WAS BORN FROM AN ETERNAL FATHER AND IT HAS A FATHER'S LOVE IN IT AND OVER IT. OF COURSE ADAM AND EVE WERE THE APEX OF ALL CREATION ... A SON AND DAUGHTER BORN TO AND FROM THE ETERNAL FATHER.

**Deuteronomy 32:6 NLT**

*Is not [the Lord] your **father who created you**, who made you and established you.*

**Luke 3:38 NLT**

*Kenan was the son of Enosh. Enosh was the son of Seth. Seth was the son of Adam. **Adam was the son of God.***

*God's heart was broken when Adam and Eve and all creation with them, fell into darkness.*

*Unfortunately ... ever since 'the Fall' of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Edam ... **THE TRUTH OF GOD AS FATHER HAS BEEN LOST.** People have made up gods to suit themselves.*

**SLIDE** Genesis 1:27 tells us that on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation, 'God created man in His own image'; however, since man fell into sin, **man has created God in HIS own image.**

**NOW WE HAVE EVERY IMAGE OF GOD AVAILABLE**

*There have been a million wrong concepts of God and who He really is and what He's really like.*

*The Greeks have 12 gods and goddesses. **SLIDE** – Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Athena, Ares, Aphrodite, Apollo, Artemis, Hephaestus, Hermes, and either Hestia or Dionysus*

**NO MENTION OF 'THE FATHER'**

*The Romans also have 10-12 gods and goddesses. SLIDE* - Jupiter and Juno, Neptune and Minerva, Mars and Venus, Apollo and Diana, Vulcan and Vesta, Mercury and Ceres.  
NO MENTION OF 'THE FATHER'

*Hindus have ... 33 million gods SLIDE*  
NO MENTION OF 'THE FATHER'

*Jesus came proclaiming God as the Eternal Father ... the Father of all mankind ...  
For example: In the book of Matthew Jesus taught us to pray to Our Father without ritual or ceremony.*

*In the book of John, Jesus taught us that True Worship is to the Father without ritual or ceremony.*

**The title 'Father' is used by Jesus when speaking to or referring to God over one hundred times in John's gospel and 165+ times in the four Gospels.**

**IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW EVERY TIME JESUS MENTIONS GOD HE REFERS TO HIM AS 'FATHER'. WITH ONE EXCEPTION.**

**JESUS' ULTIMATE PURPOSE WAS ...**

**TO MAKE KNOWN 'THE FATHER' AND BRING US BACK TO HIM ... TO KNOW HIM.**

**John 17:3 SLIDE**

*And this is [the purpose of] eternal life, that [in order that] they may know [recognise] You [Father], the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

**SLIDE** Let me paraphrase this verse for clarity:

**THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF ETERNAL LIFE, THAT PEOPLE MAY KNOW YOU FATHER, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AS THE ETERNAL FATHER.**

- **THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF OUR JUSTIFICATION IS TO KNOW THE FATHER...** This is not only so we can know peace with God (Romans 5:1) ... so we know God is no longer angry with us and we can sleep better at night;  
**JUSTIFICATION REMOVED ALL ENMITY WITH GOD SO WE COULD NOW FREELY BEGIN TO KNOW HIM AS OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN ...**

**2 Corinthians 5:19-20**

*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

<sup>20</sup> *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

- **THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS TO KNOW THE FATHER.**  
The purpose of this eternal life is not to have great churches where we all

fellowship and get encouraged and become better people ... that's a fringe benefit.  
IT'S TO BRING US INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR FATHER AND TRULY KNOW HIM.

1 John 1:3 SLIDE

*We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And **our fellowship is with the Father** and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 3:14-15 SLIDE

*I bow my knees to **the Father**<sup>15</sup> from whom **the whole family** in heaven and earth is named.*

WE ARE A FAMILY WITH AN ETERNAL FATHER GOD.

- THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF ALL MINISTRY IS TO KNOW THE FATHER.  
The purpose of this eternal life is not ministry for ministries sake. IT IS TO KNOW THE TRUE GOD AS OUR FATHER. Some ministries have changed the scripture to ...  
The purpose of MY ministry is that you would know me '**PREACHER FABULOUS**'.  
They become performers with talent and gather audiences to themselves ... Like America's Got Talent.

Acts 20:30 NLT

*Some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.*

**JESUS WHOLE LIFE AND MINISTRY DIDN'T ULTIMATELY LEAD TO HIMSELF BUT TO HIS FATHER.**

John 17:9 SLIDE

*I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for **they are Yours. (also Verse 21)***

**BEWARE OF ANY OTHER PURPOSE:** It is not about the Ministry Machine ...

- THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF OUR REGENERATION IS TO KNOW THE FATHER,  
**NOT JUST TO GLOW ... BUT TO KNOW ... THE FATHER.**

Romans 8:15 SLIDE

*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "**Abba, Father.**"*

THE FATHER HAS BROUGHT US INTO HIS FAMILY BY SPIRITUAL REBIRTH.

## **JESUS NOW GIVES US A DIVINE, PERSONAL INTRODUCTION.**

SO NOT ONLY HAS JESUS JUSTIFIED US BY PAYING OUR DEBT AND MAKING PEACE WITH THE FATHER ...

HE HAS ALSO MADE US ALIVE SPIRITUALLY AND BROUGHT US INTO HIS FAMILY.

BUT ... NOT ONLY HAVE WE BEEN ADOPTED INTO THE FATHER'S FAMILY ...

**WHEN WE BOW OUR HEARTS TO JESUS, HE BECOMES OUR ELDER BROTHER AND GIVES US A PERSONAL INTRODUCTION TO THE FATHER OF ALL LIFE.**

### **Matthew 11:27 NLT **SLIDE****

*My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN EVER KNOW THE FATHER WITHOUT KNOWING JESUS HIS SON

It's like a young guy trying to get to see a famous Hollywood director like Steven Spielberg because he has a story he wants him to make into a movie. But try as he might, he cannot even get Spielberg's phone number. He has a secretary who has a secretary ... who operates through another preproduction company which has another secretary.

However, one night he meets Spielberg's son and they become great friends. Then one day, the son of Spielberg invites our guy around for a family lunch. Now, unlike before, when it was impossible to get to see him, the son drives him straight to his house. They drive past the security guards who recognise and wave to the son ... the gates open up without question and he gets in because he's now with the son. The butler opens the door for him and welcomes him into Spielberg's own personal home ... because he's with the son. Spielberg welcomes him into his lounge-room, gives him a drink etc ... because he's with his son.

How much greater is it to have a personal introduction to the Father of all creation by His Son.

### **Matthew 11:27 NLT**

*... No one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

## **SO WHAT'S THIS FATHER LIKE?**

So many of us have a negative concept of a Father based upon what we have known or not known of our own father.

- *You may have had a demanding father ... judgemental ... harsh ... a disciplinarian ... driving you to achieve more ... you never being good enough and he leaving you always feeling like a failure.*

So now you might see God the Father as that.

**BUT DEAR FRIEND**, now Jesus will reveal the true Father to you. He accepts you and believes in you without you doing a thing except receiving him. **HE'S THE FATHER YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN BUT WHOM YOU HAVE ALWAYS DESPERATELY NEEDED.**

- *You may have had a violent and abusive father.*

So now you might see God the Father as someone you hate and despise.

**BUT DEAR FRIEND** ... that man wasn't a father to you. He may have been your biological relative but he's not a father at all.

**BRING YOUR PAIN** and allow Jesus to reveal the true heavenly Father who will wipe away all tears from your eyes as he purely holds you in his wholesome love. **HE'S THE FATHER YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN BUT WHOM YOU'VE ALWAYS DESPERATELY NEEDED**

- *You may have had a detached father ... absent even though he might have still been there. You have felt abandoned ... not good enough ... unloved and unwanted.*

**BUT DEAR FRIEND** ... know that the heavenly Father has been searching for you and waiting for you since before you were born. Allow Jesus to reveal to you the true Father who you have never known. **HE'S THE FATHER YOU'VE NEVER KNOWN BUT WHOM YOU'VE ALWAYS DESPERATELY NEEDED.**

*All humanity has suffered spiritual rejection which is the root cause of most of our fears and depressions but ...*

**AT THE CROSS, JESUS TOOK ALL OUR REJECTION ... THE REJECTION WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT, IN ORDER TO BRING US TO THE FATHER'S LOVE.**

**JESUS SUFFERED THE ULTIMATE REJECTION.**

I mentioned earlier that in the Gospel of Matthew, every time Jesus referred to or spoke to God, He used the title, '**FATHER**' EXCEPT FOR ONCE.

**WHY DID HE DO THAT AND WHEN WAS THAT TIME?**

**Matthew 27:46** **SLIDE**

*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

**JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED THE ULTIMATE REJECTION ...**

**SO THAT YOU AND I COULD ENJOY THE ULTIMATE ACCEPTANCE.**

**Rejection / abandonment was something Jesus had never known before.**

**JESUS LAST WORDS ON THE CROSS WERE, 'IT IS FINISHED'.**

One of the things that ended there was our pain of rejection.

*Jesus suffered our rejection so we could be accepted by His Father.  
Jesus was abandoned by God, so that you and I could be adopted.  
Jesus endured agonizing separation from the Father which He had never known so that  
you and I could be brought near and know His Father.*

**JESUS' ULTIMATE PURPOSE HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED  
WHICH HE REVEALED TO MARY AT THE TOMB.**

**John 20:17** **slide**

*"Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find **my brothers** and tell them, 'I am ascending to **my Father and your Father**, to my God and your God."*

Romans 8:29 describes Jesus as the "*firstborn among many brothers*" and that includes you and me.